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**THANK YOU for
your support!**

President's Message by Jim Byrne

When I told Eileen that I had to scribble out another President's message, she thought I should think about the word 'Anticipate'. And being a somewhat dutiful husband, I did, and I realized that I was anticipating a number of things happening over the next few months; some delightful, some not so. No matter how things turn out, we need to plan for the outcome. We need to think of the outcomes we expect and set in motion those things that will give us the best chance at realizing a positive result.

Back in September, we made plans for the next years' calf crop by selecting the sires and cows to breed in hopeful anticipation. In the spring, we vaccinate in anticipation of avoiding an unfavorable complication. We put up hay for the winter's feeding and reseed for the next year. We all make plans and take steps to assure the results we hope for.

In response to proposed changes in the federal Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program, the board has reviewed the amendments, discussed the specific ramifications on the Minnesota program, and has drafted a letter stating our position in regards to these proposed changes. The finalized letter was sent to APHIS on May 27, 2009 and is in this newsletter for your review.

Our MN Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee members attended a meeting at which these changes were discussed and agreed with other members that the Farmed Cervidae Committee should also send a response as an interested party. I anticipate that the other industry organizations NAEBA, NTFARC, MDBA and TUEFA will also submit written responses to the proposal. We all hope

that the final document will be favorable to our industry and encourage interstate movement of our products.

The fundraising calendars are being sent to the printers and will be ready for the mid-year meeting. We are anticipating selling 750 calendars this year. We have great confidence and expectations of the membership selling out the entire printing. The calendars will be available at the North Central Antler Competition to be held at the Shooting Star Casino Hotel Event Center in Mahanomen, MN on July 24-25.

As you can see anticipation is running rampant. I believe that this is going to be a very active time over the next months for the industry. I hope that you will participate fully in all that is going to happen.

Thank you for being a member.

MnEBA's Gun Raffle Calendars will be available soon! Contact the MnEBA Office at 320-543-2686 or email info@mneba.org to order as many calendars as you can sell. Bring them to local businesses, many are willing to set them on their counter to sell as well!

MnEBA News is a bimonthly publication of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association. It is mailed out on the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Deadline for information, articles, and advertisements is the 15th of the preceding month.

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(320) 543-2686

MnEBA

Mission Statement

The Minnesota Elk Breeders Association represents a unified voice that strengthens the Elk farming industry in Minnesota by creating awareness about Elk production and promotion and consumption of Elk products.

Commentary on This Year's Bull Market by Scott Salonek

What to do... Cut or Not!

The question is there about how to manage your bull herd this year? With last year's low velvet prices, the first thought is "*for that I am not cutting my bulls*"! However we do need to look at the 2, 3, and some four year olds as cutting them for velvet is a management system for them also. I promise if you leave them hard you still need to cut the hard antler as well or you run the risk of having one get killed. That is a major management error because the cost of the bull far out-weighs the loss on velvet or hard antler.

I have spoken in the last few weeks with two velvet buyers and three hard antler buyers and mainly on velvet we should not expect prices as low for 2009, and with world velvet cutting for this year expected to be lower, early numbers are in the \$10 area. This is still 3 times less than where we need this number to be, however my thought is until we create our own market and keep the product here, we will not see this.

Hard antler is in the 4-5 dollar area presently, and the question we need to ask is, if I cut the bull @ \$10 velvet, will the bull double the hard antler to get the same return? Most bulls probably not, very few two year olds that cut 10-12 pounds of velvet will cut 20-24 pounds of hard antler. You must also factor in the cost of keeping the antler frozen, this will take a few dollars to maintain until August -September. Both thoughts have ups and downs, however I think the best management on my farm will be to cut the two's and three's and maybe a four and grow the rest for the hunt market.

I want to stress that we have to maintain our bull herd in the proper way as to maintain the hunt market prices. The worst possible thing to do will be grow them all out and send them to the hunt market and hope for the best. I have some 60 bulls on my farm and for this year 30 will get grown out, 30 will get velveted, and if I sell 20-25 of the bulls grown out and DO NOT take less than past years for them, I can afford to feed the ones left over for another year. Selling a group of 360 bulls for less than the \$2500-\$3000 you should get for them will make you go broke not only this year, but for future years also. Many hunt farms are not discounting the larger bull hunts but using the 300-340 bulls as a feature hunt and upgrade a client after he see's that 360 typical. On a management bull, take what you can get but do not let them cream your herd for less, because in this market a good bull can still make you money. This is my opinion only and what will happen on my farm for 2009!

Board Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

The MnEBA Board of Directors held a board meeting on May 3, 2009 at the home of Mark & Sue Hendrickson. Jim Byrne, Mark Hendrickson, Pat Prodzinski, Kaye Zearth and Brenda Hartkopf were present. Brian Wagner arrived a short time later.

Byrne called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. He asked for additions or corrections to the January 31st board meeting minutes. Prodzinski moved to accept, Zearth seconded, motion carried. Minutes from the February 23rd phone conference were reviewed. Zearth moved to accept, Prodzinski seconded, motion carried. The 2009 year to date treasurer's report was then reviewed. Zearth moved to accept as presented, Hendrickson seconded, motion carried. The current checkbook balance is \$34,483.34.

OLD BUSINESS

Hartkopf reported that the compilation of the 2008 MnEBA books has been completed. A compilation report written by the accountant was discussed and a copy given to all Board members.

Hartkopf reported that sponsors have been found for all the months of the calendar, however a few items still need to be turned in before all sponsorships can be accepted. The calendar will be going to the printer in the next week or two. Decision was made to purchase guns for the raffle from The General Store in Osakis. Zearth will verify availability of guns on the list and look into insurance or a contract to ensure a smooth transaction process. Decision was made to include a statement on the ticket to verify the winner is responsible for shipping and handling if a transfer to another gun dealer is needed. Every effort will be made to ensure the guns listed are still available by the date each gun is awarded. Decision was made that the person who sells the most calendars will receive a free 2010 MnEBA membership. Also discussed listing each gun available on the back of the calendar if possible.

Hartkopf reported on discussions with a lawyer to get a second quote on trade-marking the MN elk logo. Hartkopf was directed to get a more specific quote. Hartkopf also stated that MnEBA will need to show the logo in use on items in the categories being trademarked. Discussed having MN elk logo stickers created to place on elk products qualified to use the MN elk logo, similar to how MN Grown stickers are used.

Hendrickson reported that the 2009 North Central Antler Competition will likely be held at the Shooting Star Casino Hotel Event Center in Mahanomen, MN on

July 24-25. North Dakota Elk Growers will still host. The Board supported this change in date and location.

Byrne reported that no decisions have yet been made regarding the premise in Olmsted county with the one case of CWD. A federal appraisal has been conducted, but no offers of indemnity have yet been made as a result of this appraisal.

NEW BUSINESS

Board reviewed the proposed rules for the federal Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program. Several items were noted as needing more clarification or not being in agreement with. The Cervidae Advisory Committee is meeting on May 7th to also discuss the proposed rules. Byrne will follow up with other cervidae-related organizations to ensure that a uniform message is being conveyed in comments to be returned by June 1st.

Board reviewed seven bids which had been submitted for the 2010 MnEBA Annual Conference. The Kelly Inn in St. Cloud was the first choice if rental fees could be reduced. If fees could not be negotiated, the Willmar Holiday Inn & Convention Center would be the second choice.

Board reviewed a list of non-renewed members. Board will follow up with non-renewed members to encourage continued participation.

Discussed continued support of NAEBA as national representative of the elk industry.

Discussed an inquiry about funding a MnEBA booth at the Steele County Fair. Decision made to follow precedent on such activities where MnEBA will provide the trailer and contents, and producers cover any entry fee and manpower needed to work in the booth at the county fair level.

Next meeting was tentatively scheduled as a phone conference for the second Thursday in July at 8 p.m.

Wagner moved to adjourn, Hendrickson seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hartkopf

2009 North Central Antler Competition

July 24 – 25, 2009 ~ Shooting Star Casino Hotel Event Center, Mahnomen, MN

REGISTRATION: North Central entrants - \$35 pre-registration / \$40 at the door / \$70 out of region entrants

HOTEL INFORMATION: Shooting Star Casino Hotel, 777 Casino Road, Mahnomen, MN 56557

Reservations (800) 453-7827, mention *North Central Antler Competition* to receive the discounted room rate of \$65 plus tax. Room block release date – July 10th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Gerald Lawler, (701) 266-5391

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday July 24

2 - 8 pm Antler Check-in
8 pm Hospitality Room

Saturday July 25

7:30 – 8:30 am Buffet Breakfast
9 am – 5 pm Silent Auction
9 – 10:30 am State Membership Meetings
10:30 – 11 am Morning Break
11 am - Noon Dr. Paul Anderson, MN Board of Animal Health
Noon – 1 pm Lunch Buffet
1:30 - 3 pm Round Table Discussions with NAEBA & State Leaders
3 – 3:30 pm Afternoon Break
3:30 - 4 pm Short Discussion on Velvet Antler Judging
4 – 6 pm Announcement of winners, distribution of score sheets and photos



PRE-REGISTERING ANTLER

Save \$5 on each set of antlers entered in the competition by **pre-registering!**

Plus, you can have all your paperwork completed beforehand for easy registration.

Here's all you need to do: Send \$35 for each set of antlers entered and your name, address and phone number to: Gerald Lawler, P.O. Box 201, Hansboro, ND 58339. Make checks out to the NDEG. **Payment must be received before July 17, 2009!** You will be mailed back the appropriate number of registration forms which you will bring with your antler sets to the competition.

Booth Space is available! Contact Gerald Lawler at (701) 266-5391 to reserve your space.

Velvet Buyers are being contacted, but are not yet confirmed.

Requirements for Entry of Velvet Antler and Hard Antler into Regional Competitions

see www.naelk.org for a complete listing of rules and regulations

- Entrants must present NAEBA registration certificate or copy of same OR Copy of the bull's record in any state/provincial government, age-verified, inventory system or in NAEBA's inventory system. Please note that a copy of the bull's NAEBA registration (at Silver, Gold) level must accompany the application for international competition and will not be accepted without it.
- NAEBA judges and judging system must be used for hard antler. Regions can appoint their own independent velvet judges.
- Antler shall be entered into competition in the year shed or harvested. As an example, hard antler grown by a bull that was 2 years old in 1999 would be entered in the 2- year-old class in 2000.
- Age of bull is determined by calving season year. For example, a bull born in the 1997 calving season is a 3-year-old for the 2000 competitions, regardless of month of birth. For hard antler entry, the age class will be the age of the bull when the antler was grown.
- A photo and NAEBA ear tags are not necessary but highly recommended. If you submit a photo it must show the bull in antler with all of his points and ear tag number clearly visible.
- The NAEBA senior velvet or hard antler judge-not the host-will be the decision maker regarding any questionable situations related to regional competitions.
- All velvet will be re-weighed, measured and scored at the International Antler Competition.
- Ownership of animal shall be as it appears on the registration certificate (person, partnership, etc.) Do not list the boarding locations as owner.

NOTE: Throughout these rules, the term "registered" refers to Silver or Gold registered – "inventory" is not registered.



2009 Gun Raffle Calendar



Calendars are currently in the process of being designed and will soon be printed. A big THANK YOU to all producers who sponsored a month in the calendar to help get this project off the ground! There are some fantastic elk pictures in the calendar, what a great way to promote the awesome genetics raised in Minnesota!

Calendars will be available for sale at the North Central Antler Competition and sold until the drawing date of the next Annual Conference or until they run out. There will be 750 calendars printed. Other details include:

- Calendars will sell for \$40 each.
- A numbered raffle ticket stub will be on the back of each calendar. Fill in contact info on ticket, detach stub, collect funds and return to the MnEBA Office. Keep and enjoy the calendar!
- Names drawn will be returned to the drum where they can be drawn again.
- There will be a gun or cash option awarded every other Wednesday throughout the 2010 calendar year as designated on the calendar. There will be 26 guns or cash options awarded. Winners to be notified at the end of each calendar month.
- This gun raffle calendar will take the place of the raffle tickets which have been sold the last few years.

MnEBA will now be looking to members to help promote the gun raffle calendars. Many hunting-related businesses are willing to place these types of calendars on their counters to help sell. If you frequent these types of businesses, please take a moment to talk to them to see if they would be willing to sell them. We will all need to sell more calendars than the traditional raffle tickets sold in the past because being a gun raffle, the guns were not donated as other prizes have been in past raffles. However, there are very desirable gun prizes of all types available, plus, everyone will keep a Minnesota elk calendar!

Also, the person who sells the most calendars will receive a FREE one-year MnEBA membership! Good luck!!! Please contact Brenda Hartkopf at (320) 543-2686 or info@mneba.org or Kaye Zebarth at (320) 834-4064 or oakpoint@gctel.com with any questions or comments.

MNEBA SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2009 ~ 9:00 A.M.

SHOOTING STAR CASINO HOTEL EVENT CENTER ~ MAHNOMEN, MN

The meeting will include committee updates and association business followed by a presentation from Dr. Paul Anderson from the MN Board of Animal Health to help explain the newly Proposed Rules for the Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk, and Moose.

Deal Maker

Sally was driving home from a business trip to Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. She stopped the car and asked the woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

The old woman sat silently until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. "What's in bag?" she asked. "A bottle of wine. I got it for my husband," said Sally. The Navajo woman was silent for a moment or two. Then, speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, "Good trade."



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NAEBA's 19th Annual Conference & International Antler Competition August 6 – 8, 2009 Holiday Inn Convention Center, Omaha, Nebraska



The schedule of events will be out very soon. Several new booths are already signed up! Speakers are currently being lined up and lots of fun activities are being planned. See www.naelk.org for the complete schedule in the next week or two!

NAEBA is pleased to invite you to NAEBA's 19th Annual Conference and International Antler Competition in historic Omaha, Nebraska! Located along the Missouri River, Omaha is known as the "Gateway to the West" and is located in the center of the United States and only 380 miles or 5 hours from Minneapolis! The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center which is also home to CoCo Key Water Resort, a fantastic water park for your kids and grandkids.

This year, pricing has been reduced at almost every level for conference registration and exhibitor booth space! If you're serious about the elk business, you can't afford not to come. Learning the latest feeding and grazing techniques, or finding just the right breeding bull at the International Antler Competition can launch your breeding program to the next level. How about learning more about alternative feeds or improving AI or natural breeding conception rates in your cows? One can learn a lot by hanging out with fellow elk breeders and simply networking – perhaps gain a lead on an antler buyer or shooter bull buyers? The possibilities are endless!

Return your registration form today!

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**19th Annual North American Elk Breeder's Association
INTERNATIONAL ANTLER COMPETITION & ANNUAL CONVENTION
August 6-8, 2009 ~ Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center ~ Omaha, Nebraska**

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Children's Name (for badge) _____

Ranch/Business Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City, State/Zip _____

Full Registration (Registration includes meals, seminars and trade show. Prices in USD.)

	Until July 1	After July 1	
Single	\$175	\$200	\$ _____
Couple	\$325	\$375	\$ _____
Day Pass	\$75	\$100	\$ _____
Child (7-18)	\$25	\$50	\$ _____
Child (6 & under)	Free	Free	\$ _____

Off-Site Activities (Place check next to activities you plan to attend. Transportation will be provided.)

- August 6th 12:00 – 4 pm: Shopping in Old Market District _____
- August 7th 10 am – 2 pm: Lauritzen Botanical Gardens _____

Exhibitor Booth Registration (Includes 10'x10' area, one 8' skirted table and two chairs)

- Royal Exhibitor (single booth and 1 full registration pass) \$300 \$ _____
- Imperial Exhibitor (single booth and 2 full registration passes) \$450 \$ _____
- Monarch Exhibitor (double booth and 2 full registration passes PLUS choice of premier exhibit booth location) \$600 \$ _____

Contact _____ Name(s) on badges _____

Description of products or services offered _____

Contributions/Donations

This event is NAEBA's largest fundraiser! All donations and contributions generate revenue which will allow NAEBA to operate throughout the coming year. Please consider making a monetary or item donation to benefit NAEBA. Make sure to note your item(s) below to ensure your donation is included in the onsite conference program. The committee will decide whether the donations will appear in the LIVE or SILENT auction. Item description(s) _____

Sponsorship

To call attention to your company in a big way, several opportunities to sponsor convention events are being offered. **As an added bonus, anyone donating \$1,000 cash or more will receive a FREE convention pass!** Remember, **ADVERTISING DOESN'T COST – IT PAYS!**

- Trophy (1st, 2nd, 3rd) – \$75/each (designate classes _____) \$ _____
- Coffee Break – \$400 \$ _____
- Hospitality Suite Sponsor (call for details) \$ _____
- Entertainment – \$1,500 (includes (2) complimentary convention passes PLUS reserved banquet table) \$ _____
- Evening Banquet – \$3,000 (includes (3) complimentary convention passes, free Royal booth, PLUS reserved banquet table) \$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center – Reservations (402) 393-3950, mention NAEBA to receive the discounted room rate of \$99 plus tax for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday night. Room block release date – **July 13th**.

Payment – USD Funds

Circle one: Check Visa/Mastercard Discover American Express

Check number: _____ Credit card number: _____ Three Digit Security Code _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Card holder signature: _____

Please remit registration and payment to:


**Brenda Hartkopf, NAEBA Convention Coordinator, 9086 Keats Avenue SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349
(320) 543-2686 * (320) 543-2983 Fax**

2009 Minnesota State Fair Schedule



Here is the Minnesota State Fair Schedule as it stands today. There are several time slots still open! Any and all help, for any amount of time, is greatly welcomed! If you've never worked the booth, sign up to work with someone already on the list. Or, take an open slot or bring a friend to work with you, many interesting people stop by the booth! Contact Morrie Evenson at (320) 212-1479 or Daphne Evenson at (320) 894-2304 to sign up.

Date	Time	Workers	Date	Time	Workers
8/27	8 - 2	Morrie & Daphne Evenson & friends	9/2	8 - 2	OPEN
	2 - 9	Glen & Kaye Zebarth		2 - 9	OPEN
8/28	8 - 2	Jon & Richard Aase	9/3	8 - 2	Jim Byrne
	2 - 9	Jon & Richard Aase		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
8/29	8 - 2	Kaplan Family	9/4	8 - 2	Jim Byrne / Martin Zacharias
	2 - 9	Kaplan Family		2 - 9	Jim Byrne
8/30	8 - 2	OPEN	9/5	8 - 2	Kaplan Family
	2 - 9	OPEN		2 - 9	Kaplan Family
8/31	8 - 2	Sally Bergman & Evensons	9/6	8 - 2	Pat & Rita Prodzinski
	2 - 9	Dan Groothuis		2 - 9	OPEN
9/1	8 - 2	OPEN	9/7	8 - 2	Larry Gerdes & Greg Lubinski
	2 - 9	OPEN		2 - 9	OPEN



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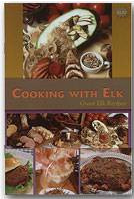
MnEBA Promotional Materials

The following items are available for promotional purposes. To see the full line of MnEBA promotional offerings, check out www.mneba.org and click on the "Promo Materials" button.

You can order online and pay by credit card or print off an order form and mail it to the MnEBA office along with a personal check. Contact info@mneba.org or call the MnEBA office at (320) 543-2686 with further questions.

MEAT PROMOTIONS

Elk Meat Poster 11" x 17" laminated poster in full color featuring elk burger and steak. Can personalize free of charge, no minimum order. \$5/each.



"ELK, Meat for a Healthy Life" Brochure 50 ct., \$10/each **Newly revised!**

3rd Edition "Cooking With Elk" Cookbook

1-9 copies, \$2.00/each; 10-99 copies, \$1.50/each; 100+ copies, \$1.00/each (*pictured*)

Table Tents feature a juicy elk burger, a MUST HAVE for restaurants selling elk burgers. Sold in packs of 20 for \$5.

VELVET PROMOTIONS



Velvet Antler for People Brochures is an updated, general velvet antler brochure. \$12.50/pack of 50 (*pictured*)

Velvet Antler for Pet Brochures is a first of its kind general info brochure about velvet antler & pets. \$12.50/pack of 50

Velvet Antler Brochures is a general velvet antler brochure produced by NAEBA. \$.30 each

GENERAL INFORMATION



Elk Info Brochure with general elk health and market info. FREE to MnEBA members up to 100 copies. \$.50 each to non-members. (*pictured*)

Raise the Legend Book, a general info booklet specifically created for the new breeder or those contemplating raising elk. Up to five copies FREE to MnEBA members!

Elk, America's Greatest Animal – Minnesota Elk DVD (NEWLY REVISED!) A DVD promoting all elk markets, with special emphasis on promoting Minnesota grown elk.

Great tool for speaking to civic groups and classrooms. \$5 each.

HOME DÉCOR

Price includes shipping & handling.



Elk Trashcan (*pictured*) \$25 each

Elk Rug (Small) \$27.50 each

Elk Rug (Large) \$40 each

Now Available!

MnEBA Kitchen

Here's a quick dish to put together for those busy summer days!

Source: North American Hunting Club "Wild Game Cookbook" p. 104

Elk Stir Fry

1 ½ lbs. elk round steak, thinly sliced	2 green peppers, cut into 1" pieces
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil	2 Tbsp. corn starch
1 med. onion, cut into 1" pieces	¼ cup cold water
1 beef bouillon cube	3 Tbsp. soy sauce
1 cup hot water	2 tomatoes peeled and cut into 1/8'ths
1 clove garlic, minced	3-4 cups hot rice



Cut up onion, peppers and tomatoes. Dissolve bouillon cube in 1 cup of water. Heat oil in skillet, brown meat. Add onion, broth and garlic. Simmer, covered, until meat is tender, about 10 minutes. Add green peppers, simmer 5 minutes. Blend cornstarch with water. Stir into mixture in skillet. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and boils. Boil and stir 1 minute. Add soy sauce and tomatoes, heat through. Serve over rice.



A View from the Capitol- 2009 Legislative Summary

by Tony Kwilas, MnEBA Lobbyist

As with all Legislative Sessions, the 2009 edition did not lack for exciting moments, long hours and the threat of a special session.

The session began in January with the largest deficit in the history of the state, totaling approximately \$6.4 billion. With the help of Federal Stimulus money from Washington, D.C the total deficit was reduced to \$.4.6 billion for 2010-2011. Governor Pawlenty's budget proposed to alleviate the budget deficit with no new taxes and a combination of cuts to state agencies, shifts of state payments and the sale of revenue bonds. The DFL controlled state Legislature proposed cuts to state agencies, delayed payments and shifts and increased state taxes on income, alcohol, credit card companies and various other revenue raisers. After the Legislature sent all the appropriation and tax bills to Governor Pawlenty, he announced he would sign the appropriations bills, veto the tax increases and balance the state budget himself through a process called "unallotment" and would not call the Legislature back to St. Paul for a special session. The Legislature adjourned on May 18 without reaching a resolution with the Governor on the budget. The Governor has until July 1 to announce which state programs he intends to "unallot".

Overall, the session was a positive one for the industry. There were no proposals introduced regarding shooting preserves, no fee increases and no further restrictions placed on farmed cervidae. We closely monitored the budgets for the Department of Agriculture and the Board of Animal Health to ensure that they were able to properly carry out the missions of the agencies with adequate resources. The final reduction for the budget of the Department of Agriculture was 8.4% and the Board of Animal Health reduction was 3.3%. Additionally, there was increased funding for the wolf and elk compensation fund (\$50,000 in 2010 and \$50,000 in 2011) for damage to livestock and crops.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association at the Capitol. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Tony Kwilas, 651-908-4000

MnEBA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Annual Conference	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Nominating	Fred Neubert (320) 352-6733
Government Relations	OPEN
Antler Competition	Kaye Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Health	Dr. Glen Zebarth (320) 834-4064
Auction	Jerry Strodman (507) 451-3107
Awards	Patty VanGundy (507) 896-2380
Promotions	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686
Shows	Morrie & Daphne Evenson (320) 354-5156
Fundraising	Brenda Hartkopf (320) 543-2686

Vet Corner by Glen Zearth, DVM

Blood test may screen for mad cow disease

Thu Jan 29, 3:28 pm ET Reuters

WASHINGTON (Reuters)

Researchers in Canada have developed a blood test that can diagnose fatal chronic wasting disease in elk, and believe it may provide a cheap way to screen cattle for mad cow disease.

The test looks for signs of damaged cells in the blood, they reported in the journal *Nucleic Acids Research*. It may also offer a way to diagnose people with a related disease called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or CJD, they said on Thursday.

"We can now take a blood sample from a live animal and look at the DNA patterns in the blood and predict six months ahead of time whether an animal is infected with chronic wasting disease," Christoph Sensen of the University of Calgary said in a telephone interview.

The secret is not finding the prions that cause mad cow disease and other so-called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or TSEs, Sensen said. Instead they looked for circulating nucleic acids -- little bits of DNA that get spat out when distressed cells die.

They found three distinct patterns in these circulating pieces of DNA that appeared three months before the elk showed symptoms. Each pattern correlated with

genetic mutations known to put the animals at higher risk of contracting the disease.

TSEs such as chronic wasting disease, mad cow disease, scrapie and CJD destroy the brain and can happen spontaneously, but are also passed from animal to animal by eating infected tissue.

Mad cow disease or BSE swept through British dairy herds in the 1980s, and infected a few people who ate contaminated beef. Overall, fewer than 200 people globally have died from CJD caught in this way.

Chronic wasting disease is also found in herds of wild elk and deer in the U.S. and Canadian west.

SAVING EXPORTS

But every case in a cow shuts down a country's exports for a time, so cattle breeders and governments are keen for a test. Usually cases cannot be diagnosed for certain until the brain or certain other organs are examined.

Sensen's team, including an expert from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, looked at vesicles -- little pieces of DNA that end up in the blood when a cell dies. "We are looking at the host response to the infection," he said.

"Any disease puts stress on the body. We are

looking at what does the host do to rectify the attack."

Chronic wasting disease is always fatal, like BSE and CJD, but the cells of the animal struggle and Sensen said this changes the DNA in a way that can be seen in the test.

The test itself is a simple polymerase chain reaction or PCR test that amplifies the DNA so it can be sequenced.

Sensen suggests pooling the blood of several animals -- perhaps in batches of 20 or so -- and testing it all at once. If evidence of BSE is found, then each of the 20 animals in that batch could be individually tested.

His team tested 19 elk and two BSE-infected cattle from Germany and could identify the infected animals every time.

He said it will take four years to be able to replicate the findings in cattle.

"There is currently no reliable way to tell if an animal may have a prion infection before it becomes obviously sick," Kevin Keough from the Alberta Prion Research Institute said in a statement. "If there were a reliable way to know, it would be of great benefit to producers, processors and wildlife managers."

NOTE: Proposed rules for Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk, and Moose were sent out for comment by APHIS on March 31, 2009. Comments are being accepted until June 1, 2009. To read the amendments to the 2006 CWD Rule, see <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-7026.htm>. The Minnesota Cervidae Advisory Committee held a meeting where these amendments, among other topics, were discussed at length. MnEBA has also worked closely with NAEBA, MDBA, NTFARC, NADeFA and other affiliated groups to ensure that consistent messages are being sent by all. Please see details of the MN Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee discussions below followed by the comment letter submitted by MnEBA.

Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee May 7, 2009

The Board of Animal Health advisory committee on Farmed Cervidae met on May 7, 2009, at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St. Cloud.

In attendance – Bill Hartmann, Paul Anderson, Carl Denking, Bethanie Park, Carissa Allen, Mike Don Carlos, Michelle Carstensen, Glen Zebarth, Brenda Hartkopf, Donavan Olson, James Byrne, Brian Wagner, Joe Collins, Dennis Niess, Bob Holig, Julie Getschmann, Dan Bloch, Daryl Simon, Mark Johnson, Jim Rasmussen, Peter Bingham, Don Myren, Angie Roering.

Introductions – Members introduced themselves and talked briefly about their involvement with the Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee.

Welcome – Bill Hartmann welcomed committee members and visitors to the meeting. He talked briefly about the current disease issues the Board of Animal Health is facing, including H1N1, the ongoing surveillance for influenza in Minnesota pigs, scrapie, Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) in horses, and bovine tuberculosis (TB).

Purpose of the meeting – The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposed rule changes in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for Farmed Cervidae. Specific changes proposed for 9 CFR 55 and 81 (appendix 1) were reviewed to allow committee members time to comment by the June 1, 2009 deadline. It was noted that the underlined parts are proposed additions to the CFR and the crossed out lines are proposed deletions.

Overview of the Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Program – Paul Anderson summarized the number of farmed cervidae herds currently enrolled in the program and gave a compliance update. There are 627 farmed cervidae premises in Minnesota. Of these, 587 are in full compliance with farmed cervidae requirements. There are

currently 8,227 elk, 7,026 white-tailed deer and 1,624 other species of cervidae on Minnesota farms.

Current events - TB has been confirmed in an elk herd in northeastern Nebraska. New York has not found any cases of CWD in the wild over that last two years and may possibly be removed from the import restriction list. CWD was found again in the wild in Alberta as well as on a farmed elk herd in Saskatchewan.

Minnesota CWD case – The case of CWD in an Olmsted County elk herd was discussed. No elk had been moved into or out of the herd except to slaughter in the last eight years. Because of this, no other herds would be considered exposed to CWD. All elk on the farm and all elk products have been under quarantine since CWD was confirmed in January, 2009. Officials from USDA are currently developing an appraised value of the animals. Approximately 120 acres on the northwestern corner of the site are slated for commercial development in the near future. In order to facilitate the development and still protect wild deer from exposure to CWD, it has been proposed that the top four inches of soil be removed from the construction site and piled on another part of the farm prior to removing any of the fences. Soil from the construction site will be placed in an area where fences will be maintained. Mike DonCarlos, an official with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), indicated that his agency supports the plan. He also said that DNR staff plan to do CWD surveillance in wild whitetail deer around the quarantined farm this fall.

Review of Proposed CFR Rule Changes – Proposed changes to 9 CFR 55 and 81 were discussed. Official comments on the proposed changes must be submitted by June 1, 2009.

Premises identification (ID) numbers and animal ID numbers – If proposed changes become effective, Minnesota “MN” assigned premises numbers will no longer be recognized for official identification. Only “National” premises identification numbers will be allowed. Official eartags will have to display the US shield and only nationally assigned premises numbers will be recognized. New tags would need to be purchased from a company that has authority from USDA to apply the US shield.

Members of the committee voiced concern about this issue. Several members use MN premises ID numbers for their eartags. Under current requirements, producers can purchase eartags from the company of their choice without the involvement of an accredited veterinarian. Eartag purchases under the proposed system would require the involvement of an accredited veterinarian and would make the system unnecessarily cumbersome.

Inventories – Under the proposal, physical animal inventories may be required by USDA or the state. This part is an option and not a requirement. Members were reassured that the Board of Animal Health would only require such inventories if laws for farmed cervidae are broken repeatedly.

CWD sample submissions – When producers submit CWD tissue samples for testing, they may submit eartags with part of the ear attached in the same container. Under the proposed rules, this would allow producers to appeal a positive CWD test and confirm by DNA testing whether the positive test was indeed their animal. To be eligible for DNA testing, the eartag and piece of the ear must be submitted at the same time as the brain stem and/or lymph node samples. Dr. Jim Collins of the U of M Veterinary Diagnostic Lab will be contacted to work out the logistics for handling tags and ear tissue.

Restrictions on herds from CWD endemic areas – Under proposed rules, new herds may not be eligible for enrollment in the CWD certification program if the premises is located in a CWD endemic area or within 25 miles of a CWD case in the wild. Similarly, no interstate movement of cervidae will be allowed from CWD endemic areas or a herd located within 25 miles of any case of CWD in the wild. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will keep a list of states that recognize these import restrictions.

Several members of the committee voiced concern about these requirements. The requirements do not allow states to evaluate the risk of CWD exposure for individual herd situations. For example, they do not take into consideration risk mitigation techniques such as double fencing or

solid fencing. In general, the committee indicated that these requirements are too rigid and narrow.

Interstate movement requirements – Under proposed rules, five years participation in the CWD certification program (Certified herd status) will be required to move cervidae between states.

CWD surveillance in wild cervidae – Under proposed rules, CWD surveillance in a state's wild cervidae population would be required for state participation in the CWD herd certification program.

Committee members questioned how much money and effort should be expended looking for CWD where it is not suspected. They also voiced concern about writing requirements that tie programs under the Minnesota Board of Animal Health for farmed cervidae to those under the Minnesota DNR for wild cervidae. The Minnesota farmed cervidae program must be allowed to continue even if the Minnesota DNR is unwilling or unable for any reason to conduct CWD surveillance in the wild.

CWD Quarantined herds – Under proposed rules, CWD quarantined herds will no longer be allowed to add animals to the herd. Minnesota already prohibits this, but many states do not. This requirement would prohibit shooting preserves from adding CWD free cervidae to quarantined premises.

Other restrictions – Under proposed rules, states may still continue to prohibit the importation of cervidae for reasons other than control and eradication of CWD. For example, states would be allowed to restrict importation of farmed cervidae to minimize the possibility of diluting the genetics of their wild cervidae population.

Minnesota Rulemaking – Minnesota rulemaking for farmed cervidae has been put on hold to wait for the federal rule changes to take affect.

Rectal Biopsy – Current research relating to the rectal biopsy test for CWD was reviewed. The rectal biopsy is a live animal test for CWD. The test is not yet considered an official test for CWD in cervidae. It is 70% sensitive in elk and 90% sensitive in whitetail deer, while the brain stem test is nearly 100% sensitive.

Next Meeting – The farmed cervidae advisory committee is scheduled to have a conference call to review comments regarding proposed rule changes to 9 CFR 55 and 81. This conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2009. Telephone numbers and passcodes will be sent to committee members.

May 27, 2009

Docket No. 00-108-7
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS
Station 3A-03.8
4700 River Road Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to Docket No. 00-108-7, Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk, and Moose. We hope this rule will give individual states the ability to establish criteria for managing herds within their jurisdiction but not place cumbersome restrictions on interstate movement of cervids.

The CWD surveillance program currently in place in Minnesota has been very successful, and we believe, a good model to other states. Comparing it to the proposed rule, we find many similarities, however, we also find some differences which could potentially cause the 627 farmed cervid herds in Minnesota several difficulties.

The proposed amendment to require state surveillance programs of the wild is unworkable within the state of Minnesota. The Minnesota wild herd population is under the authority of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), all farmed cervid herds are under the authority of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. If this amendment would be finalized, the participation of Minnesota herds in the Certification Program would then have to rely upon the DNR to carry out a surveillance program for which they may not have funding or personnel to manage such a program. Secondly, the wording is vague. What constitutes an acceptable program? The potential failure of the DNR to carry out a CWD surveillance program for wild cervids could cause every Minnesota farmed cervidae herd to no longer comply with the Certification Program, no matter how many years of surveillance they have. This would create an impossible situation for everyone involved.

We also find the amendments as now written propose two different standards of participation depending on whether you are farmed or wild captive. A program designed to limit and control the spread of a health issue, in this case CWD, is only as effective as its minimum standard of control. For this rule to be effective, all cervids must be held to the same level of compliance whether farmed or wild. The fact that a farmed herd is easier to manage and control than a wild herd should not mean greater restrictions should be placed on that segment of the population. We therefore propose that this document adopt one minimum standard of control for interstate movement of both farmed and wild cervids. We propose the rule be changed to read that each animal must have two forms of animal identification, one of which is official animal identification, and a certificate accompanying the animal must document the source population to be low risk for CWD. The designation of low risk would be determined by state definition and needs to be accepted by the State Authority of the receiving State.

Additionally, the proposal to establish set limits of proximity to CWD occurrences at 25 miles is an excessive parameter which is arbitrary and without consideration for a state to determine what is acceptable to their own monitoring programs. We believe this proximity limit should be set by the originating state and determined if acceptable by the receiving State Authority when animals are moved interstate. It is important to note that this rule does not recognize double fencing, future live animal tests, etc. Giving states individual rights in determining whether or not to accept animals in close proximity to wild CWD occurrences will allow future findings or research which supports a farmed operation's ability to safeguard their cervids from CWD transmission in the wild. The rule as now written would not allow for future widely accepted scientific discoveries of any kind.

The new premises identification section also carries an undue burden upon Minnesota cervidae producers. We support the original language which includes allowing the states two letter postal abbreviation followed by the premises' assigned number. Forcing a now voluntary federal tagging system onto the farmed cervidae industry is unfair and will cause undue burden and confusion as all current tags will need to be replaced. States should have the right to assign their own unique identification systems, they are the authority most closely associated with each breeder. It is much more feasible for a State Authority to make additions and updates to the system than for federal authorities.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts to be fair and equitable to all concerned with these issues. Allowing for States Rights in certain situations will likely allow for more acceptance by all parties involved. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



James M. Byrne
President, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

In The News

Non-Traditional Livestock Industry well represented in Washington, D.C.

May 4, 2009, NTFARC.COM

-- Recently, Industry Leaders representing the Non-Traditional Livestock Industry met with Legislators and Government Officials in Washington D.C. to discuss issues related to this fast growing industry.

Surveys indicate nearly 80 percent of Americans support hunting and nearly 19 million hunters contribute more than 30 billion dollars annually to the U.S. economy. The Non Traditional Livestock Industry adds well over 3 billion dollars to the economy and the two combine to create more than one million jobs, most of which are located in rural America.

The Non Traditional Livestock Industry is made up of more than 45,000 non-traditional farmers, ranchers and other industry related personnel across this the United States.

This lobbying event drew representatives from all around the United States and they met with the United States Department of Agriculture, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Safari Club International, National Rifle Association, and the offices of more than 70 Congressional and Senate members.

Some of the topics discussed were:

- Finalizing a USDA rule that deals with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and herd monitoring of moose, deer and elk. The USDA has been working on a rule for over 10 years and the current lack of continuity among various state certification programs greatly hinders, and many times prevents, interstate commerce.

- Rewording the Lacey Act to protect Non-Traditional Farmers and Ranchers from abuse by an act that was intended to protect wildlife.

- Rewording the Invasive Species Act to protect Non-Traditional Farmers and Ranchers from abuse.

- Including venison in the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Program. Significant venison imports (especially from New Zealand) are available in U.S. retail outlets, yet the American consumer often believes they are buying a wholesome, natively-produced venison product. The current ruling for COOL requires labeling for any meat or poultry products for beef, chicken, lamb, goat and pork. With the inclusion of venison, an American venison market could grow and help produce more jobs.

- Supporting a voluntary application of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The industry supports a voluntary NAIS program among commercial breeders in support of animal health programs and interstate movement of animals, but does not support mandatory participation in NAIS.

- Building better communication and cooperation with national hunting organizations and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus to preserve our hunting heritage and increase participation in the sport.

- Establishing the Center for Infectious Diseases, a university consortium that will support research for developing strategies to treat and prevent infectious diseases in farmed and free range deer. Funding for the

Center was approved in the recent Farm Bill and will help prevent the deaths of more than 80,000 deer annually from epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and blue tongue.

"This year's Legislative Fly-In initiated many positive discussions and all of our attendees were well-received on Capitol Hill," says Shawn Schafer of the North American Deer Farmers Association. "As a rapidly growing industry, it's vitally important for governmental agencies and decision-makers to understand the economic impact of the deer and wildlife industry on hundreds of thousands of jobs. So, we are very grateful to all of the organizations and individuals who dedicated their time and resources to participate."

Among the groups involved in the meetings were the American Deer & Wildlife Alliance, Whitetails of Wisconsin, Non Traditional Farmers And Ranchers Coalition, New York Deer Farmers Association, Texas Deer Association, Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association, Exotic Wildlife Association, North American Elk Breeders Association, Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association, Cervid Livestock Foundation, Whitetails of Oklahoma, Missouri Whitetail Breeders and Hunt Ranch Association, Illinois Deer Farmers Association, North American Deer Farmers Association, Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio, North Dakota Deer Ranchers Association and the Minnesota Deer Breeders Association.

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

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Ads must be camera ready. To place an ad, call the MnEBA Office at (320) 543-2686.

Calendar of Events

July 24 - 25, 2009 - North Central Antler Competition, Shooting Star Casino Hotel Event Center, Mahanomen, MN

July 25, 2009 – MnEBA Summer Meeting, Shooting Star Casino Hotel Event Center, Mahanomen, MN

August 6 - 8, 2009 - NAEBA Convention & International Antler Competition, Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center, Omaha, Nebraska

August 27 - September 7, 2009 - Minnesota State Fair, State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN

January 8 - 9, 2010 - MnEBA Annual Conference, Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Willmar, MN

Classified Ads

For Sale or Trade: Hydraulic squeeze chute, padded, with pump. Asking \$2,000. Also, used posts, wire, gates and post pounder. Contact Mark Hendrickson at (612) 599-7395.

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